

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 2

Section 22

CORONER AREAS

Coroner areas

- 1 (1) England and Wales is to be divided into areas to be known as coroner areas.
- (2) Each coroner area is to consist of the area of a local authority or the combined areas of two or more local authorities.
- (3) Subject to paragraph 2—
 - (a) the coroner areas are to be those specified in an order made by the Lord Chancellor;
 - (b) each coroner area is to be known by whatever name is specified in the order.
- (4) Before making an order under this paragraph, the Lord Chancellor must consult—
 - (a) every local authority,
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers, and
 - (c) any other persons the Lord Chancellor thinks appropriate.

Alteration of coroner areas

- 2 (1) The Lord Chancellor may make orders altering coroner areas.
- (2) Before making an order under this paragraph the Lord Chancellor must consult—
 - (a) whichever local authorities the Lord Chancellor thinks appropriate,
 - (b) in the case of a coroner area in Wales, the Welsh Ministers, and
 - (c) any other persons the Lord Chancellor thinks appropriate.
- (3) “Altering”, in relation to a coroner area, includes (as well as changing its boundaries)
—
 - (a) combining it with one or more other coroner areas;
 - (b) dividing it between two or more other coroner areas;
 - (c) changing its name.

Relevant authorities

- 3 (1) This paragraph sets out for the purposes of this Part what is the “relevant authority” for a given coroner area.
- (2) In the case of a coroner area consisting of the area of a single local authority, that authority is the relevant authority for the coroner area.
- (3) In the case of a coroner area consisting of the areas of two or more local authorities, the relevant authority for the coroner area is—

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- (a) whichever one of those authorities they jointly nominate;
 - (b) if they cannot agree on a nomination, whichever one of them the Lord Chancellor determines.
- (4) Before making a determination under sub-paragraph (3)(b) the Lord Chancellor must consult—
- (a) the Secretary of State, in a case involving local authorities in England;
 - (b) the Welsh Ministers, in a case involving local authorities in Wales.
- (5) This paragraph has effect subject to paragraph 2 of Schedule 22.

Effect of body being outside coroner area etc

- 4 (1) This paragraph applies where—
- (a) a senior coroner is responsible for conducting an investigation under this Part into a person's death, and
 - (b) the body is outside the coroner's area (whether because of its removal or otherwise).
- (2) The coroner has the same functions in relation to the body and the investigation as would be the case if the body were within the coroner's area.
- (3) The presence of the body at a place outside the coroner's area does not confer any functions on any other coroner.